

City of Edina
Grandview Community Advisory Team

December 9, 2013 Meeting Notes

Present: Jimmy Bennett, Bright Dornblaser, Co-Chair Mike Fischer, Co-Chair Jennifer Janovy, Pat Olk, Nancy Grazzini-Olson, Kevin Staunton, Sue Jacobson, Bill Neuendorf (staff liaison)

Absent: Sandy Fox, Bill McReavy

- 1) Call to Order – The Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.
- 2) Approve Meeting Notes – The meeting notes from October 14, October 28, 2013 were approved. Meeting notes from and November 11, 2013 were approved with one correction to meeting attendance.
- 3) Community Comment – Mr. Neuendorf noted everyone who has signed up on the *City Extra* will receive notifications of future meetings. He also noted that each meeting will now have Community Comment as part of the regular agenda.
- 4) Staff Updates – Mr. Neuendorf summarized the written status report provided in the packet. He reported that staff has received the first draft of the resident survey. The survey is intended to be implemented during the first week of January 2014. He also noted the Facility Inventory is almost complete. The second draft of the RFI draft has been prepared and ready for discussion. A work session has been scheduled on January 21, 2014 with the City Council to discuss the RFI content and timeline.

Mr. Neuendorf noted that the Transportation study has not yet been initiated and suggested that additional time is necessary to find the right consultants for this role. With the help of the Engineering Department, staff envisions creating an RFP that identifies two phases of work. The recent RFP for 54th Street is anticipated as a template.

The School District is still willing to move their bus garage as long as it does not result in costs to them. There has been no further action on creation of a TIF District, although the steps are in place to establish this District when development projects are ready.

Finally, Mr. Neuendorf has prepared an updated Work Plan, but would like to finish it with input from the Advisory Team.

- 5) Community Art Center – Michael Frey, General Manager – Mr. Frey provided a history of the Edina Art Center, which opened its doors in 1977. The current 10,000 square foot building is not ADA-accessible, since it was originally a home built in the 1930s. He noted the limitations of the facility, including small size, broken up rooms, and a third floor that is suitable only for children’s classes. There is a great need for performance space in the Edina. Mr. Frey indicated there is not sufficient room for gallery display space at the current facility. He indicated that despite its limitations, the existing facility accommodates 5,000 to 7,000 visitors annually.

The Commission discussed the building size and parking requirements of the Art Center as well as other what other art centers in the area offer. Mr. Frey indicated the current Art Center works well for the pottery production, but believes that the gallery and classes could be relocated to a better place. He concluded that new space is needed before new or expanded programming can be considered.

- 6) Parks & Recreation – Ann Kattreh, Department Director – Ms. Kattreh reported on the needs of the existing Senior Center located at Grandview Square, where parking is a particular challenge and limits programming. Another type of community facility that could be extended to multigenerational programming would be of great use. Additionally, getting the Historical Society exhibits in front of more members of the community would be beneficial. She stated it would be difficult for staff to manage another new facility, so she would recommend giving up an existing space – both in the case of the Art Center and the Senior Center – rather than trying to manage additional spaces. A possible Teen Center was also discussed but the needs of this group have not been fully explored. She expressed hesitation regarding a new fitness center, noting that several existing venues are available for Edina residents.

Both Ms. Kattreh and Mr. Frey indicated that at the top of their wish list would be a multi-purpose facility that could host an art gallery and performance center and meet a variety of community needs and serve a wide variety of age groups.

- 7) Review of Draft RFI – Due to the limited time available after the guest speakers, the Advisory Team decided to provide written comments on the latest draft of the RFI to Mr. Neuendorf by the end of the week.
- 8) Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. The next meetings are scheduled for January 6 and January 13, 2014.